

Election Do's and Don'ts for School Boards/Board Members

For the Board

DO'S

- ✔ Pass a resolution advocating for or against a particular issue on the ballot.
- ✔ Publicize the passage of that resolution through the normal channels the Board uses to pass on information about its decisions.
- ✔ Distribute a factual summary on any issue that will appear on the ballot (the summary must include arguments for and against the proposals, and may not state a conclusion or opinion either way).
- ✔ To distribute the factual summary using public funds, adopt a resolution expressing that the issue is of "official concern" and specifically authorizing expenditure of public funds to dispense the summary.



DON'TS

- ✘ Spend any public money to contribute to any cause, ballot, or candidate campaign.
- ✘ Send out mailings or newsletters on behalf of the Board, urging electors to vote a particular way on a ballot issue.
- ✘ Send out a factual summary that only gives a positive spin or a negative spin on a ballot issue (even if it doesn't specifically encourage a particular vote).

For Board Members or Superintendents

DO'S

- ✔ Express your personal opinion on any matter before the electorate, such as sending a letter to the editor.
- ✔ Spend personal money or time advocating for or against ballot issues.
- ✔ Spend up to \$50 of public money in the form of letters, telephone calls, or other activities incidental to making yourself available to the press or public for the purpose of responding to questions about the ballot issue or expressing an opinion on the subject.



DON'TS

- ✘ Spend more than \$50 of public money in the form of letters, telephone calls, or other activities incidental to responding to questions or expressing an opinion on a ballot issue.
- ✘ Make a direct contribution of public funds to a campaign.